

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04272 151541Z

47

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 049185

O 151240Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4408

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4272

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: FUTURE RELATIONS WITH PGNU

REF: (A) STATE 139334; (B) VIENTIANE 4270

1. COUNTRY TEAM FULLY SUPPORTS POLICY DECISIONS WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION.

2. WE ARE SENDING BY SEPTTEL PROPOSED MISSION STAFFING. AS SEPTTEL WILL EXPLAIN, WE HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES IN FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS STRICTLY AND AT SAME TIME DOING WHAT WE UNDERSTAND WE SHOULD BE DOING.

3. WE UNDERSTAND OUR OBJECTIVES OVER NEXT TWO WEEKS TO BE THESE:

- A) TURN OVER PROJECTS AS SOON AS LAO WILLING TO ACCEPT THEM;
- B) RESERVE USG RIGHTS OVER ADMINISTRATIVELY FUNDED PROPERTIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT AND PROCEED WITH THEIR TURN OVER USING OUR BEST JUDGMENT BUT ONLY ON ORDERLY BASIS AS DEFINED BY NOTE 293;
- C) SHIP OUT ALL ESSENTIAL AID RECORDS;
- D) TERMINATE USAID MISSION AND WITHDRAW USAID EMPLOYEES;
- E) NOTIFY PGNU THAT MAP TERMINATED EXCEPT FOR CONTINUING SHIPMENTS OF RICE AND LIMITED POL USING FY 75 FUNDS FOR TIME IT SERVES OUR INTERESTS;
- F) MAINTAIN EMBASSY (WITH DAO AND USIS COMPLEMENTS) AT REDUCED STAFFING LEVELS.

4. OUR MAIN PROBLEM IS TACTICAL. AS DESCRIBED IN VIENTIANE 4720,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 04272 151541Z

CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN MEETING IN SAM NEUA PAST WEEK AND MAY

REMAIN IN SESSION THROUGH THIS WEEK. MANIFESTLY IT IS DECIDING ON WHERE TO GO FROM HERE. PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, WHO IS KEY FIGURE IN VIENTIANE, IS OF COURSE ATTENDING MEETING. WE THEREFORE DOUBT THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH PROGRESS IN ANY AREA UNTIL HE RETURNS WITH DECISIONS COMMITTEE HAS REACHED. THIS WILL LEAVE ROUGHLY A WEEK BEFORE THE JUNE 30 DEADLINE.

5. GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE CAN CONCEIVE OF BROAD SPECTRUM OF DECISIONS COMMITTEE COULD MAKE. AS IT AFFECTS US,

A) AT ONE END IT MIGHT DECIDE TO ELIMINATE TOTALLY US PRESENCE, INCLUDING EMBASSY. IN THIS EVENT, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE LPF WOULD PRESSURE US INFLEXIBLY IN MEETINGS TO TURN OVER ALL AID MATERIAL REGARDLESS OF FUNDING SOURCE, USING WHOLLY SPECIOUS ARGUMENTS AND REINFORCED BY CROWDS LOUDLY SUPPORTING THEIR NEGOTIATIONS. USIS WOULD ALSO BECOME TARGET OF ATTACKS. DEMONSTRATIONS MIGHT BE HELD IN FRONT OF EMBASSY.

B) AT OTHER END, COMMITTEE MAY DECIDE IT HAS ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING US PRESENCE IN COUNTRY AND TERMINATING USAID AND MAY WISH TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH US AND PROCEED RAPIDLY TOWARDS NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE AID. IN THIS EVENT, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON TURN OVER OF PROJECTS WOULD GO AHEAD RAPIDLY. WE ARE NOT SURE HOWEVER, HOW LPF WILL HANDLE OUR CONDITIONS FOR ORDERLY TRANSFER. EVEN UNDER THIS OPTIMISTIC SCENARIO, WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL HAVE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN ACCEPTING OUR CONDITIONS FORMALLY. THEY MAY TRY TO NEGOTIATE ON THIS ISSUE AND MAY TACITLY AGREE TO LET JUNE 30 DEADLINE SLIP FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW, BUT CLEARLY IT WILL BE STICKING POINT. THEREFORE, WE AGREE THAT WE MUST DEVELOP PLAN FOR ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY. WE ARE PREPARING PROPOSAL FOR THIS EVENTUALITY. (WHILE WE AGREE PROSPECTS OF GETTING ANY USG PROPERTY OUT OF COUNTRY ARE NOT GOOD, WE WANT TO MAKE REAL COLLEGE TRY AT IT AND TEST IT.)

6. ON BALANCE, COUNTRY TEAM BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD BASE OUR ACTIONS ON OPTIMISTIC SCENARIO BUT BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST. LPF LEADERSHIP HAS CONSTANTLY EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND RECEIVE AID. WHETHER THE FIRST IS ACCEPTABLE WITHOUT THE SECOND REMAINS UNANSWERED (LPF MAY WELL TAKE HARD POSITION AS HANOI THAT US "OWES" LAOS RECONSTRUCTION AID "TO BIND THE WOUNDS OF WAR".) CERTAINLY FROM LAO NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW, CONTINUED RELATIONS WITH US ARE IN THE COUNTRY'S INTEREST:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 VIENTI 04272 151541Z

IT WOULD KEEP OPEN POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE AID, EVEN IF IT IS NOT FORTHCOMING IMMEDIATELY AND IT WOULD PERHAPS HELP BALANCE BROTHERLY AMONG CHINESE, RUSSIANS AND VIETNAMESE FOR INFLUENCE WHICH IS BOUND TO DEVELOP AND WHICH LPF MUST ALREADY BE SENSING. (SCATTERED BITS OF EVIDENCE CONTINUE TO INDICATE CHINESE AND RUSSIANS WOULD LIKE MAINTENANCE OF US PRESENCE HERE.) ON THE OTHER, THERE IS NO BLINKING AT THE FACT THAT LPF IS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AND MAY FEEL IT MUST PROVE ITS REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR BY THROWING OUT AMERICANS AS WE WERE

FROM CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM.

7. IF OUR ANALYSIS IS CORRECT, WE SHALL HAVE PERHAPS TEN DAYS TO ADJUST TO LPF POSITIONS. WHAT MATTERS THEN IS THAT:

A) WE BE GIVEN MAXIMUM AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS AS EVENTS DEVELOP. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY WE NEED AT PRESENT EXCEPT FOR DECISION ON AIRCRAFT AT UDORN AND OUR PROPOSED NOTE ON MAP. IN THIS REGARD COUNTRY TEAM WISHES TO REGISTER ITS GRATITUDE TO WASHINGTON FOR THE FLEXIBILITY IT HAS GIVEN US.

B) WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT REVEAL THAT A DECISION ON FURTHER AID HAS BEEN TAKEN. COUNTRY TEAM WISHES TO MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT RPT NOT APPEALING THIS DECISION; INDEED, WE STRONGLY SUPPORT IT. BUT WE MUST OBFUSCATE ISSUE IN BEST ORIENTAL MANNER. WE NEED WASHINGTON GUIDANCE TO ALL CONCERNED ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS MATTER PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY. OUR OWN RECOMMENDATION IS THIS: IN LIGHT OF EVENTS OF PAST WEEKS, SITUATION IN LAOS HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY; WE NEED TIME TO EVALUATE NEW SITUATION; THERE HAS TO BE A PAUSE DURING WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS EVALUATE THEIR NEW RELATIONS; QUESTION OF AID MUST THEREFORE BE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

C) UNDER WHATEVER SCENARIO DEVELOPS, WE MUST CONDUCT OURSELVES AND PROCEED IN A WAY THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL PERCEIVE OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM HERE--OF WHATEVER DEGREE--AS THE RESULT OF PGNU'S ACTIONS AND NOT AS THE RESULT OF AMERICAN SPITE. WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, THERE IS A PERCEPTION, PARTICULARLY AMONG ASIANS, THAT US IS IN LARGE MEASURE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVENTS IN LAOS OVER PAST 20 YEARS. A PUNITIVE DEPARTURE FROM HERE WILL BE VIEWED AS DISPLAYING A KIND OF PETTINESS OF THE AMERICAN GIANT TOWARDS AN INCONSEQUENTIAL LITTLE COUNTRY THAT IS UNWORTHY OF AMERICA.

CHAPMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI04272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840176-0392, N750001-0442
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750648/aaaabrgc.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 139334, 75 VIENTIANE 4270
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE RELATIONS WITH PGNU
TAGS: PREL, PFOR, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006